

RECEIVED

FEB 01 2000

21 MS. KRISTIN LEMS: Hello. I am Kristin Lems
22 from Evanston, Illinois. I teach at National
23 Lewis University where I am an associate
24 professor. My main connection to nuclear power
1 has been the poor immigrants from Belarus and
2 Ukraine that I have met who have had family
3 members die as short-term and long-term results
4 of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

1 5 I appreciate the fact that the
6 Department of Energy is tackling the problem of
7 long-term storage of nuclear waste because it is
8 a horrible problem, and I consider your trying
9 to come up with a solution on this a step in the
10 right direction.

11 However, I feel that the current plan
12 is flawed and I urge the DOE recommend the
13 no-action option to the president for the
14 following reasons:

2 15 No. 1. America's roads and rails are
16 not reliable enough to bear this lethal load.
17 We in Illinois remember the recent gastly rail
18 wreck in Bourbonnais where two steel cars
19 compacted to a few feet thick.

20 Two weeks ago I was on I-80 going out
21 to Omaha and it was littered with overturned
22 semi's from an ice storm that had killed four
23 professional drivers and scattered their loads
24 onto the highway. The system proposed requires
1 perfection and we do not have it. There is

...2 2 weather, there is human error and there is
3 technical error.

3 4 No. 2. Illinois would bear a
5 disproportionate share, perhaps as much as 75
6 percent of the transportation risk. Indeed all
7 routes west from all sites east pass through
8 Illinois via train or on I-80, I-57 or I-64.
9 Five casks per day on our pothole filled roads
10 for 24 years. No, thank you.

4 11 No. 3. Both the containers and the
12 geologic site itself are flawed. More than 200
13 public interest organizations have criticized
14 the site as having disqualifying conditions.
15 And yet the plan rolls on obliviously. Is DOE
16 listening?

17 No. 4. There is no agreement from
18 several of the concerned parties, including the
19 host state itself, Nevada, and various tribal
20 nations affected, in particular the Western
21 Shoshone Nation, and it violates existing
22 treaties with them.

5 23 No. 5. How can we be expected to
24 approve an evolving or iterating, as said today,
1 design? Congress has changed. Budgets get cut
2 and often it is that safety cushion that gets
3 cut first.

4 No. 6. O'Hare has made extraordinary
5 efforts to combat terrorism. I see enormous

6 possibilities for greater terrorism with all of
7 the new risks being put on our highways and our
8 rails. We must turn off the tap by shutting
6 down our nuclear plants, because continued
9 production and its waste by-products create
10 unacceptable risks at every step of this
11 process. Those utilities that produce it, and
7 unfortunately those of us in Illinois are
12 responsible for more of it than much of the
13 nation, must find their own foolproof ways to
14 safely store it locally, and at their own
15 expense, not at the taxpayer's, or else stop
16 producing it. Not send it away to someone
17 else's back yard.

20 We know what we need to do. We need
21 to put our vast resources, the greatest in the
22 world at this time, as the only superpower, into
23 conservation, recycling, cogeneration, solar and
24 wind power. We must derail mobile Chernobyl
1 before Illinois or some other state pays the
2 tragic price. Thank you.